



Irvine Woodrow and Nona Myrom Bell Davis Papers (C4083)

Collection Number: C4083

Collection Title: Irvine Woodrow and Nona Myrom Bell Davis Papers

Dates: 1929-2010

Creator: Davis family

Abstract: The papers of Irvine and Nona Bell Davis contain records pertaining to the Davis, Bell, Woolery, Schanz, Cartee, Hildebrand, and Dayton families of mid-Missouri.

Collection Size: 8 cubic feet
(86 folders, 2 boxes)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Irvine Woodrow and Nona Myrom Bell Davis Papers* (C4083); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Joyce Davis on October 11, 2011 (Accession No. CA6278).

Processed by: Processed by Laura Jolley on October 26, 2012. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on September 17, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Irvine Woodrow Davis was born January 13, 1916, in Nelson, Missouri, to William Percy Davis and Bessie Woolery. Nona Myrom Davis was born in Nella, Arkansas, July 13, 1914, to John Wilburn Bell and Lorena Hildebrand. The couple married May 14, 1939, in Houstonia, Missouri.

They had one son, George, who died in infancy in 1940, and one daughter, Joyce Nadean Davis, born October 10, 1941. Nona was a school teacher, having received degrees from the Central Missouri State Teachers College and Missouri Valley College. She helped Irvine on their farm near Miami, Missouri, until they sold the farm and moved to Independence, Missouri, in 1959, where Irvine worked at the Leeds General Motors plant.

Joyce Davis attended public schools in Marshall, Missouri, and received her BA from William Jewell College. She also acquired degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, University of North Carolina, and Duke University. Joyce held numerous positions in libraries throughout the country, ending her career as the Director of Library Services for Emporia State University in Kansas. She traveled to China several times to address the National Library of China in Beijing.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following five series:

Joyce Davis
Nona Davis
Davis Family Genealogy
Susquehanna Neighborhood
Photographs and Slides

Scope and Content Note:

The **Joyce Davis** series includes her school records, diaries and scrapbooks, correspondence, and China trip information.

The **Nona Bell** series contains school records, journals, and correspondence.

The **Davis Family Genealogy** series contains newspaper clippings, funeral announcements, family histories, copies of county records, and correspondence.

The **Susquehanna Neighborhood** series includes directories and rosters of the neighborhood association and information regarding the Susquehanna Baptist Church.

The **Photographs and Slides** series documents the Davis, Bell, Woolery, Schanz, Dayton and Cartee families and also includes vacation photos, family reunions, and photographs of Joyce's trips to China.

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Joyce Davis Series

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| f. 4 | William Jewell College |
| f. 5 | Diplomas |
| f. 6 | Joyce Davis biographical information |

- f. 7 Joyce Davis, miscellaneous records and articles
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- f. 13 Photographs
- f. 14 Joyce Davis wedding
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- f. 17 Square dancing materials
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Nona Bell Davis Series

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